

## P R E F A C E

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This first of the cumulative supplements to the Code of Laws of the United States contains the general and permanent laws of the Sixty-ninth Congress (December 5, 1925, to March 4, 1927), arranged with reference to the Code, and correction of all the errors which diligent search has disclosed in the Code itself. While experience with the Revised Statutes of 1874 indicated that a thousand substantial errors might be expected in the Code, the most painstaking scrutiny has disclosed but 128 defects in substance, 40 being omissions. These have been corrected, together with over 200 typographical errors, and the corrections are indicated in the Supplement by a star (★) under authority of Section 1 of Public Act 620, approved May 29, 1928.

Under the direction of this committee, the West Publishing Co., of St. Paul, Minn., and the Edward Thompson Co., of Northport, Long Island, N. Y., prepared without cost to the Government this first supplement as a contribution to the perfecting of the Code. It is offered as an example of thoroughness and accuracy. Appropriations for the future supplements have been authorized.

The second supplement, incorporating the substance of the first combined with the pertinent legislation of the first session of the Seventieth Congress, will be published about January 1, 1929, and thereafter the cumulative supplement will follow the adjournment of each session of Congress in about three months, such time being required for indexing, printing, and binding.

This system should make unnecessary reference to other sources than the Code and the latest supplement to ascertain the general and permanent law of the United States.

Appreciation is due to Hon. George Wharton Pepper, who secured the acceptance of the Code by the Senate in the Sixty-ninth Congress, and to Hon. George W. Norris, the chairman, and Hon. Thomas J. Walsh, a member, of the Judiciary Committee of the United States Senate, who secured passage of the codification bills in the Senate in the Seventieth Congress.

The way has now been opened for a real revision of the laws. This may need to be done, title by title or chapter by chapter. It is possible that the statute law could be stated with greater precision and clearness in one-half or even one-third the present number of words. A first step should be the repeal of some 300 obsolete sections.

The continued cooperation of the bench and bar throughout the country and of all users of the Code and supplements is sought by this committee in its effort to perfect the statement of the statute law.

Washington, June 5, 1928.

ROY G. FITZGERALD,  
*Chairman Committee on Revision of the Laws,*  
*House of Representatives.*